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LEFT'S YELLOW JOURNALISTS PUSH TWO NEW HOAXES: Two new literary hoaxes are being circulated by the left and will misinform unsophisticated young people already victimized by years of leftist propaganda. The major hoax is a page, published in Scanlan's magazine, purporting to be part of a memorandum circulated by Vice President Spiro Agnew. Scanlan's told its readers, "This document recently came into the hands of the editors," which on careful reading indicates no endorsement of its authenticity by Scanlan's editors (Comment: it could have come into the editors' hands when they opened a letter from an anonymous writer). However, in subsequent stories (chiefly in the New York Times and in full-page ads) Scanlan's editors, Warren Hinckle (formerly of Ramparts) and Sidney Zion (formerly of New York Times) indicate that they believe in the genuineness of the "memorandum," that it came to them from a source known to them, and he was previously a reliable source. To COMBAT's knowledge the only other publication to accept the "Agnew memorandum" as genuine was the Communist Daily World, which featured it (on page 1) on July 29. The Vice President brands the memo as "completely false."

The "memorandum" is manifestly a forgery and hoax. Supposedly from Agnew's office, it is on stationery used by Hubert Humphrey. Its publishers (Scanlan's) state it uncannily predicted the hardhat street demonstrations of June, because it is dated March 11 and said there would be construction worker demonstrations in New York, Pittsburgh, and other cities. (Comment: anyone may write a memorandum and date it March 11 and refer to "future" events, if publication comes in August.) The memorandum advances absurd schemes: that the Nixon Administration is planning to cancel the 1972 elections and repeal the Bill of Rights. While those notions are viewed as just plain silly by most reasonable men (they are accepted as possibilities only by Scanlan's and the Daily World) they will feed the left's paranoia.

Another irresponsible forgery is being circulated by the New York underground newspaper, Changes, and is dangerous because it might impel the poorly-educated to believe that the government is bent on a campaign of genocide against Negroes. Changes presents the hoax in the manner of Scanlan's: "This Paper is supposedly out of the files of the U.S. Department of Defense" (Comment: out of the files because it was never in the files). The "plan," code-named King Alfred, purports to be a master plan by the National Security Council, the Attorney General, the State and Defense Departments to round up and eliminate all Negroes in the U.S. The "plan" plays a familiar agitator's theme: "Since the Korean War (the Defense) Department has shifted Minority members of the Armed Forces to areas where combat is most likely to occur, with the aim of elimination, through combat, as many combat-trained Minority servicemen as possible." Changes is published by Susan Graham (also known as Sue Ungaro), formerly advertising manager of the defunct New York Free Press, and edited by Jack Banning, formerly co-publisher of the Free Press. (NYFP was a small-circulation leftist journal specializing in attacks on New York police.) Associate editors of Changes are Alice Polesky, Bob Palmer, Bob Levin and political correspondent is Ray Schultz. Of special interest is Changes' London correspondent: Harvey Matusow. Matusow was an ex-Communist (COMBAT, April 15, 1969 and Sept. 15, 1969) who later cooperated with the Justice Department, then recanted, and participated in launching a book purported to be an autobiographical expose (False Witness), but which was drafted for him by Albert E. Kahn (who has been named as a CP member) and which was proven a fabrication. Hoaxer Matusow was convicted of perjury for saying he lied to the FBI; he has been in London for several years.